

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-11 are pending in the present application, claim 5 having been cancelled herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was objected to due to an informality in claim dependency. That informality has been corrected. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mizutani (U.S. Patent no. 5,602,432). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Mizutani in view of Perkins et al (U.S. Patent no. 6,359,371). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The amended claim 1 recites a driver comprising a magnet to be inserted in a coreless coil having an axis, and at least one suspension comprising a pair of plate springs support the driver resiliently. The pair of plate springs are disposed in axisymmetrical positions to support from both sides of the driver and arranged on a line extending in a substantially perpendicular direction to the axis. In addition, each of the plate springs has an open inner end, and

the driver is resiliently supported by the open inner ends of the plate springs.

In contrast, Mizutani discloses that the leaf spring 40 supporting the movable member has substantially an E shape defining two slits 41 (refer to column 6, lines 1 and 2). Also, the permanent magnet 3 and coil 2 compose the movable part, which is supported by an end of the central elongated portion of the E shaped leaf spring 40.

Compared to the shape and the structure of the leaf spring 40 disclosed in Mizutani, those of the suspension disclosed and claimed according to the present invention are totally different. A vibrator according to the present invention shown in Fig. 1 discloses a structure different from Mizutani. The components, in particular, the pair of plate springs in Applicant's vibrator are disposed axisymmetrically to support the driver, and are arranged on a line extending substantially perpendicular to the axis of the coil. Further, the outer end of each plate spring is fixed and an open inner end supports the driver. Mizutani's vibration generator does not disclose this claimed structure. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Amended claim 10 also recites that the pair of plate springs disposed in axisymmetrical positions and extend along the elongated shape of the vibrator. This structure also differs from the disclosure of Mizutani. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is patentable over the prior art of records.

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 11 are believed to be patentable in and of themselves and they depend from and include the recitations of the independent claims from which they depend. Applicant respectfully submits that Perkins does not remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to claims 1 and 10.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of records. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to
contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197

Respectfully submitted,

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